

Corpus Christi Caller

The CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER
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CIRCULATION BOOKS OPEN TO ADVERTISERS

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A COMMON RELIGION.

In the minds and hearts of American men and women, the Red Cross occupies a place of peculiar affection. Somehow or other, it appeals to them as something worthy of special devotion. It is a sort of a non-partisan religion, so to speak, a common ground of service upon which men and women of all creeds, races and conditions can meet and feel at home in a common service to a common humanity.

It is reported by those who during the recent war activities devoted much time to solicitation work for various necessary war service funds, that while some difficulty—not much, of course—was experienced in explaining the need that existed for the support of certain agencies and activities, an appeal for the Red Cross always met with ready, generous and enthusiastic response. This may have been due in a measure to the fact that by reason of its pre-war activities, its purpose and the character of its service were more generally familiar to the public, but apart from that there is something about it that seems to appeal to the hearts and purses of men and women.

We wonder sometimes what it is and, yet, when we remember what it stands for and what it really does, we understand. The Cross, symbolical of mercy, love and sacrifice, represents succor for the suffering, rest for the weary, food for the hungry and peace for the fainting soul. It is a fitting standard for a Christian nation and people.

Since the day of Cavalry, the Cross has been the lodestar which has led men and women to higher thoughts and nobler deeds. It has led them, imperfectly, of course, but truly nevertheless, somewhat in the footsteps of Him who proclaimed an everlasting gospel of service: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

All true men and women today believe, in their hearts, in a common religion of service, whether they admit it or not, and the magnificent manner in which they have supported the Red Cross, which is after all only a practical application of real Christianity, is proof of that fact.

The war, with its awful harvest of destruction and death, is happily over. But the want and woe which it caused is not. The wounds of war must be healed; the scars of battle must be effaced; the hungry must be fed. The battle flag has been furled. But the memory flag must continue to fly in undiminished luster and glory.

And every man, woman and child who believes in this service of mercy and love and who can afford to do so, must help it fly.

Within a few days they will be given an opportunity to renew their allegiance, to reaffirm their faith in this creed of universal brotherhood.

"All you need is a heart and a dollar." Surely you have the heart and surely such a heart can somehow find or save a dollar for such a glorious, noble cause!

"Every man, woman and child in Nueces County—a member of the Red Cross." If we could realize that splendid goal, wouldn't it make you proud and happy? And wouldn't it be a fine thing to tell to the world?

Can we do it? We can and we shall.

THE MAN AND THE OPPORTUNITY.

The elevation of H. R. Sutherland to the important office of County Judge is a just reward to a faithful and efficient public servant.

For more than twenty years, Mr. Sutherland has served the people of Corpus Christi and Nueces County in various official capacities and to each of his tasks has brought that high sense of honor and fairness which constitute probably his most conspicuous characteristic. The predominant trait of his character as a public servant is to give everybody a square deal.

In The Caller's judgment, a splendid opportunity for real service awaits Mr. Sutherland in his new office. The crying need of the county is, of course, better roads. They are not only necessary as a means for future growth but absolutely essential to the continued prosperity of the farmers and business interests of the county.

What Nueces County really needs and ought to have is about one hundred miles of best-class hard-surfaced highway, but whether or not the time is opportune for such an undertaking, The Caller does not now presume to venture.

However, The Caller knows that Mr. Sutherland has assumed the duties of County Judge with a fixed determination to bring about some solution of the problem, and, needless to say, his efforts in that direction will be heartily approved and appreciated by all of the people of Nueces County.

MAKING GOOD.

"The gallant men of our armed forces on land and sea have consciously fought for the ideals which they know to be the ideals of their country. It is now my duty to play my full part in making good what they offered their life's blood to obtain."

This splendid sentiment expressed by President Wilson, who seems to possess an almost supernatural ability to give verbal conception to the spiritual feelings of his fellow-citizens, uttered upon the eve of his departure for the Paris Conference which will determine the world's destiny, sums up the spirit and purpose of America in the affairs of the world today.

Never in human history, replete as it is with deeds of heroism and sacrifice, has there been written such a chapter of unselfish service and consecration as that which deals with America's participation in the greatest of all wars.

And so it is indeed fitting that the leader of a great people whose marvelous ability to put into words the thoughts and aspirations of free men everywhere, has made him, almost by common consent, the acknowledged spokesman of world-wide democracy, should "make good what they offered their lives to obtain." Serious minded patriots regardless of party affiliations, take, we believe, little stock in the mental-blathering of politicians in Washington who seek notoriety for themselves by attempting to call the Constitution into judgment against the President in his purpose to discharge that which, in the light of his leadership, is a matter of simple duty.

We must not lose sight of the fact that "civilization begins and ends with the plow." What is called "industrial democracy" can't hope to live and thrive unless there are those on the land producing the corn and cotton, the wheat and the potatoes. Here is where the Bolsheviks fall down; they want to distribute the world's wealth in utter unconcern of production.—Waco Times-Herald.

TEXAS PRESS

THE SURPLUS WARSHIPS.

"When murder terrorized her arm and rampant war rocked the red dragon to her iron ear," warships that were in course of construction for South American republics in British and other foreign countries involved in the world cataclysm were taken over by belligerent countries in which they were being built, to meet a pressing necessity.

Now that the war is over, some of these South American republics are claiming their own and the British government has been asked to hand over the completed ships to the governments which contracted for their building.

In view of the contemplated establishment of a League of Nations to enforce peace and the consequent reduction of armament, there is likely to be a considerable surplus of warships in the late belligerent countries where there was but a little while ago such狂热 to turn them out from the shipyards. England will still maintain a great navy, for she has a idea of relinquishing her claim as "mistress of the seas," and the United States is going right ahead with its naval program, the idea being that the tongue to enforce peace must have the means of enforcement. There will be great navies still, great by comparison, for there may be always the assumption of a need for the war craft, even if there were never to be any more war. They may have other than war uses, for policing and for display, for nothing more. But, with the navies of the central powers and their allies taken over as a precaution against further disturbances of the peace, the allies may be supposed to have a surplusage of warships that would prove an elephant on their hands if there were not some means of disposing of the surplus judiciously.

It may be that with the conclusion of the peace settlement in progress the nations of the world will gradually overcome their desire for a great navy, and with the turning of their plowshares into pruning hooks, will convert their war vessels no longer needed into commerce carriers and freight barges, or utilize the junk for useful purposes. But there will be little wastage.

The world has learned a great deal about salvage and avoidance of waste in the past four years and the lesson will not be easily forgotten.—San Antonio Express.

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